

## **APPENDIX L - FORMATION FLYING**

### **L.1 - GENERAL.**

- A formation is a flight in which two or more aircraft operate as a single aircraft in regard to navigation and position reporting.
- Formation flights provide maximum combat power and maintain unit integrity. They also reduce aircraft exposure time, giving the enemy less time to react.
- The type of formation used will be determined by the METT-T. Normally, units conducting formation flight will be from the same unit and use their Unit SOP.

### **L.2 - TERMS.**

For a definition of basic formations and terms see Chapter 7, TC 1-201, Jan 84.

### **L.3 - PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS.**

- Mission requirements
- Enemy considerations
- Fire support plan
- Ordinance
- Terrain and weather
- Formation maneuver and flexibility
- Armed aerial escort
- Control of formation
- Type of aircraft and capabilities
- Crew experience
- Safety
- OPSEC measures

### **L.4 - SUPPORTED GROUND UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES.**

- Provide the number of troops to be airlifted
- Desired arrival time at LZ
- Cargo information (size, weight, amount, etc.)
- Location and details of PZ and LZ
- Desired formations at PZ and LZ
- Specific landing points in LZ
- Ground commander's location in formation
- Location of alternate LZ(s)
- Control (pathfinders) in PZ and LZ
- Fire and EW support
- Safe routes into and out of LZ (if known)
- Rules of engagement
- Disposition of friendly troops
- Frequencies and call signs of supported unit

## **L.5 - AIR MISSION FLIGHT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES.**

- Supported ground unit briefed on:
  - Formations normally used
  - Use of aircraft lights
  - Aircraft troop and cargo load capability
  - Safety requirements
  - Probably enroute formation
  - Downed aircraft procedures
  - Frequencies and call signs
- Supporting aviation briefed on:
  - Number of helicopters required
  - Aircraft cargo and troop load
  - Time schedule
  - Formations to be used
  - Location of Commander
  - Number of system of helicopters in formation
  - Method changing formations
  - Angular relationship of helicopters
  - Vertical and horizontal separation
  - Use of aircraft lights
  - Rendezvous and join-up procedures
  - Inadvertent IMC procedures
  - Signal requirements
  - Downed aircraft procedures
  - Status of armed support
  - Details of LZ
  - Route and LZ intelligence
  - Lost comms procedures
  - Rules of engagement
  - Refueling and rearming instructions
  - Emergency break-up procedures
  - Emergency medical facilities
  - Safety

## **L.6 - AVIATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.**

- Comply with the instructions provided the Air Mission Commander (AMC).
- Advise the AMC anytime that it would become necessary to deviate from his/her instructions.
- Following instructions issued by the Flight Leader.
- Advise the AMC of any compromises to safety.